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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Chile DATE DISTR 28 Sep 50

SUBJECT

INFO.

Political Activity of Chilean Communists

NO. OF PAGES 1.

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PLACE ACQUIRED DATE OF

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

1. Although the Chilean press had reported that Carlos Thanez del Carmo had initiated the proposal for a political pact of all opposition parties in the Santiago senatorial campaign, * source reported that the Political Commission of the Communist Party was actually responsible for proposing the alignment of all forces in opposition to the government. Liquel Concha and Humberto Martones were active in this endeavor in behalf of the Communists. As soon, however, as the proposal appeared to be favorably received by the other exposition groups, the Communists who had sugmeered it stepped aside and made it appear as though the incentive had come from the other parties. The Communists allegedly then awaited an expected invitation to join the opposition group. This mancuver reportedly failed when the Popular Socialists called an immediate meeting and decided not to accept any political pact with either the Liberals or the Traditional Conservatives. The Communists then decided that they could not act independently of other leftist groups.

- 2. The Communist Party is not interested in which candidate is elected to the vacancy left by the death of Arturo Alecsandri Palma on 24 August. It is anxious, however, to take advantage of the election as a proper and webicle and it wants to effect political pacts which may be influential later on in the 1952 presidential election. The Communist Party is reported to feel that Alegaendri should be replaced by a secretar representing either the Socialist Party of Chile, the People's Democratic Party, or an independent backed by Carles Ibancs del Campo.
- 3. It is estimated that the Communist Party controls about 15,000 votes for the conatorial election in Santiago, which makes it an important factor in any political combination. The Communists have therefore been approached by several political factions but no definite agreement has been made with any of them since the non-Communist crows will not acree to the rescal of the Law of Defense of Democracy which the Communists demand in exchange for their votes.

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Comment. The Santiago press reported that Carlos Thanez del Campo, former resident of Chile, had proposed a political pact joining all the opposition parties, ranging from the rightest Liberal Party to the Communists in an effort to deprive the government coalition of this opportunity to gain another seat in the Senate.

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